

Message Text

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FOR CU/NEA

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TAGS: OEXC BG

SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN BANGLADESH STUDY TOUR

REF: DEPT 54543, DACCA OM FEB 12

1. MISSION HAS REVIEWED PROGRAM AND FINDS SUBSTANTIALLY SAME DIFFICULTIES AS REPORTED IN FEB 12 OM.

2. FY 73 EXPERIENCES BORDERED ON CHAOTIC, REplete WITH AD HOC HOUSING ANZYSTUDY ARRANGEMENTS. DR. KHAN'S LACK OF ABILITY OR INTEREST IN ORGANIZATION WAS REINFORCED WITH HIS FREQUENT ATTEMPTS TO USE EMBASSY FACILITIES AND RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT BASIC NEEDS WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN SET UP BEFORE GROUP ARRIVAL. THE VERY PERSONALIZED NATURE OF THE PROGRAM, DEPENDENT ENTIRELY ON DR. KHAN'S CONTACTS, ALBEIT EXCELLENT, IS A POTENTIAL HAZARD, AND WE BELIEVE THAT ALTHOUGH HE MAY AGREE TO BE BETTER ORGANIZED, IT IS NOT AN INHERENT TALENT OF HIS. HE HAS NO REPRESENTATIVES EXCEPT PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND WE FEAR MANY NECESSARY POINTS OF PROGRAM WILL REMAIN FOR AD HOC TREATMENT. PROJECT'S PROPOSED JUNE 4 ARRIVAL FALLS WITHIN PERIOD OF BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY SUMMER HOLIDAYS APRIL 20 TO JYU 1. THIS DOES NOT SUPPORT KHAN'S PROGRAM (ITEM VI) WHICH CALLS FOR MORNING SEMINARS AND MEETING STUDENTS DURING FIRST TWO WEEKS.

3. WISCONSIN'S ASSESSMENT OF LAST YEAR'S PROGRAM AND PROPOSAL FOR THIS YEAR'S REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THAT FAULTS OF LAST YEAR WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DUE TO INADEQUATE LEAD TIME AND RECOMMENDED THIS YEAR THAT INVITA-

TION ANNOUNCEMENT GO OUT BY FEBRUARY AND THAT BDG APPROVAL (FYVOC WHICH INCLUDES HOME MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RE VISAS END FYI) BE OBTAINED FIVE MONTHS IN ADVANCE. NOW AGAIN, HOWEVER, WE ARE FACED WITH THE SAME TWO-MONTH LEAD TIME BETWEEN FUNDING AND START OF PROGRAM THAT PROVED SO INADEQUATE LAST YEAR.

4. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PROGRAM CAN BE ADEQUATELY PROGRAMMED HERE NOR CAN WE RECRUIT THE BEST CANDIDATES IN THE UNITED STATES IN THE TIME REMAINING BEFORE PROPOSED BEGINNING. FYI: IT IS NOT ONLY LAST YEAR'S WISCONSIN PROJECT THAT MAKES US PESSIMISTIC. HAS WITH SIU AND OTHER MISSION PROJECTS, SCHEDULING AND PLANNING IN BANGLADESH HAVE PHENOMENAL PROPENSITY TO SLIP AND SLIDE. END FYI.

5. MISSION'S NEGATIVE RESPONSE DOES NOT MEAN WE ARE BASICALLY AGAINST GOOD, SCHOLARLY PROGRAMS. IF WISCONSIN, THE DEPARTMENT AND BFS CONSIDER THE WISCONSIN PROGRAM HAS POTENTIAL LONG-RANGE BENEFITS, WE SUGGEST THE PROGRAM BE FORWARD FUNDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION IN SUMMER OF 1975 SO THAT ADEQUATE SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS LEAD-TIME FOR FIRST RATE PROGRAM AND RECRUITMENT EXISTS.

6. BECAUSE THE PROGRAM, WE ALL ADMIT, IS SO DEPENDENT UPON DR. KHAN, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CU CHECKING OUT AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE THAT THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN IS UNDERGOING A BUDGET REDUCTION AND THAT DR. KHAN MAY BE RIFFED. WHAT EFFECT WILL THIS HAVE ON WISCONSIN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PROGRAM, IF TRUE?
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